part L of the "Text on Agriculture" of the Dunkel text established under GATT;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) Government has furnished a preliminary List of Commitments and the supporting material in accordance with the Agricultural Text in Draft Final Act.

In the area of domestic support calculations have been made for non-product-specific and product-specific support for the reference period 1986—88. Non-Product specific support comprising of non-exempt subsidies, namely fertilizers, credit, irrigation, electricity and seeds has been calculated to be less than six per cent of value of agricultural production. Product-specific support is negative in respect of 14 out of 17 products for which calculations have been made. For three products, namely, groundnut, tobacco and sugarcane the level of support is positive but less than 10 per cent. As developing countries are not expected to undertake any reduction commitments in respect of domestic support below 10 per cent, no commitments have been made.

Since India does not maintain any export subsidies within the meaning of Draft Text of Agriculture, no commitments in this regard have been undertaken.

On market access, India has indicated ceiling bindings on tariff rates for agricultural items generally at 100 per cent for primary products, 150 per cent for processed products and 300 per cent for edible oils. Since India maitains quantitative restrictions for balance-of-payment reasons, no commitments have been undertaken on minimum market access.

Operations of Public Distribution System are considered to be consumer subsidies, which are exempt from GATT discipline, and hence no commitments have been undertaken.

Delay in payment under International Price Reimbursement Scheme

1404. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO G. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as claimed by the Engineering Export Promotion Council, there is an inordinate delay in payment under the International Price Reimbursement Scheme; and

(b) if so, what are the corrective steps Government propose to take in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) IPRS payments are intended to compensate the exporters for the higher price of domestic steel compared to the international price of steel. Such payments are financed out of a Cess levied on major steel producers in the country. On account of inadequate receipts through the cess, some delay has occured in settlement of IPRS claims of exporters of Engineering Goods for Exports effected during 1992-93.

(b) Government has recently released a special grant of Rs. 75 crores from Budgetary sources to bridge the gap. Some other possibilities are also being examined to make up the difference in cost of steel for the Exporters.

हाई वोल्टेज परीक्षण सुविधा का आरम्भ किया जाना

1405. **श्री शांति त्यागी** : क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गाजियाबाद स्थित राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण गृह में अब हाई वोल्टेज परीक्षण सुविधा उपलब्ध करा दी गई है ; और